The Board has lodged First Information Report (FIR) under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code with the Police Authorities for investigation in the above cases. After the Police investigation, criminal cases have been filed in the respective courts in both the cases. The Board has also filed civil suits in both the cases for recovery of the NHB's funds alongwith interest. The matter is being pursued by the Board in the respective courts and the same is *sub-judice.*

Rice production per acre

1273. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a failure to meet the target of foodgrain production of 210 million tonnes in 1999-2000;

(b) if so, which cereals have not been able to meet the target;

(c) whether it is a fact that rice production per acre is gradually going down;

(d) to what causes does the ICAR attributes this decline in rice production and productivity;

(e) whether any step will be taken to enhance the foodgrain productions in the forthcoming year; and

(f) the details thereof in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The crop-wise targets *vis-a-vis* likely production of foodgrains during 1999-2000 are given as under:

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	Target	Advance estimates (as on 29.06.2000)
Rice	86.00	88.25
Wheat	74.00	74.25
Jowar	10.83	8.65
Bajra	8.09	5.74
Maize	10.81	11.47
Ragi	2.45	2.43
Small Millets	0.66	0.64
Barley	1.66	1.42
Pulses	15.50	13.06
Total foodgrains	210.00	205.91

The major foodgrains crops that are not likely to meet the targets are jowar, bajra, ragi, small millets, barley and pulses.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The rice production per acre during last five years is indeed increasing as evident from the following table:

Year	Yield (Kg./Hectare)
1995-96	1797
1996-97	1882
1997-98	1900
1998-99	1928
1999-2000 (Advance estimates)	1962

The ICAR has developed a well focused programme to improve rice productivity. The major components of the programme are development of better rice varieties with higher yields and tolerance to pests and diseases, evolving suitable agro-techniques, sites pecific Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods and transfer of technology programme.

(e) and (f) To increase the production and productivity of rice, wheat and course cereals, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System approch. Besides, National Pulses Development Project is also being implemented to increase yield per unit area. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements and distribution of certified seeds, minikits and sprinkler sets etc. In addition, field demonstrations on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

Lack of Storage capacity of Foodgrains

1274. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food grain output for 1999-2000 is to be 205.91 MT;